1	2	3	4	5
21.	Nanded	—	—	—
22.	Latur	8	17	14
23.	Usmanabad	17	70	60
24.	Parbhani	—	—	—
25.	Nagpur	—	—	—
26.	Bhandara	2	3	2
27.	Buldhana	2	3	2
28.	Chandrapur	4	7	5
29.	Akola	10	38	17
30.	Gondiya	1	21	10
31.	Gadchiroli	1	2	1
32.	Wardha	17	18	18
33.	Washim	8	11	8
34.	Yeotmal	20	49	45
	TOTAL	203	618	401

Job loss due to recession

960. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 5 lakhs persons have lost their jobs in the last 3 months in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that no employee would lose his job due to recession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to assess impact of economic slowdown on employment in the industries/sectors presumed to be adversely affected by the slowdown during the quarter October-December, 2008, Ministry of Labour and Employment carried out a survey in important sectors, *viz.* Mining, Textiles, Metals, Gems and Jewellery, Automobile, Transport and IT/BPO. These sectors contributed more than 60% to GDP in the year 2007-08. It has been revealed that about half a million workers have lost their jobs during October-December, 2008. Decrease in employment has been revealed in all the above sectors, except the IT/BPO sector, wherein it has shown a marginal increase (0.55 percent). Average

monthly decline in employment was highest (8.58 percent) in Gems and Jewellery followed by Transport (4.03 percent), Automobiles (2.42 percent), Metals (1.91 percent), Textiles (0.91 percent) and Mining (0.33 percent). The major impact of the slowdown is noticed in the export oriented units.

Department of Commerce, Government of India have been undertaking sample surveys relating to reduction in exports and resultant job losses in export-related industries. In the updated sample survey on job losses for export-related industries for August, 2008 to 16 January, 2009, out of 402 units surveyed, the loss in export orders is around Rs. 6272 crores and loss of 1,09,513 jobs.

(c) Government is concerned about the impact of global financial crisis on the Indian economy and several measures financial and fiscal have been initiated to instil confidence in the economy, spur growth and overcome crisis. Some of the important steps relate to RBI measures to enhance liquidity in the market and two economic packages by the Government of India, mainly comprising additional spending, interest subvention and excise duty cuts.

In order to provide a social safety net, with effect from 01.04.2005, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation has introduced "Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana". Under the scheme, employees who lose their employment due to retrenchment, closure of factories/ establishments or permanent invalidity due to non-employment injury, after being insured for five or more years, are entitled to Unemployment Allowance in cash equal to 50% of their wage upto 1 year during his/her entire service. In addition, he and his family members are also entitled to medical care.

Increasing the rate of interest on Provident Fund

961. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to bring units with 10 workers under Provident Fund net;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far;

(c) the welfare measures taken for PF subscribers; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the rate of interest on PF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) On the receipt of recommendations of Central Board of Trustees (Employees' Provident Fund) for reducing the threshold limit for coverage from 20 to 10 under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, Government has initiated necessary action for amending the Act.

According to the Economic Census, 2005, there are 4,197 million persons employed in 3,17,755 establishments having size class of total employment between 10 to 19. The legislative proposal to reduce the threshold limit for coverage from 20 to 10 under the Employees' Provident